

fisheries surveyed by abare in 2007

- » ABARE surveyed the northern prawn fishery and the Torres Strait prawn fishery in 2007 on behalf of the Fisheries Resources Research Fund

northern prawn fishery

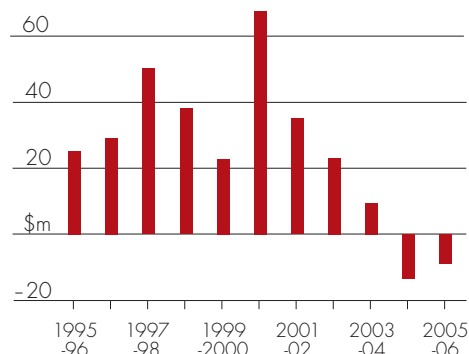
economic performance – fishery as a whole

- » For the fishery as a whole, estimates of **net economic returns** (including management costs) in real terms have shown a declining trend since a peak in 2000-01 of \$68 million. They became negative for the first time in 2004-05, falling to -\$13.6 million, but improved slightly to -\$9 million in 2005-06. These figures are substantially lower than the average annual real net return between 1995-96 and 2003-04 of \$33.4 million.
- » The real gross value of production of the fishery was \$75 million in 2005-06, compared with \$69 million in 2004-05 and the record \$194 million in 2000-01.
- » The total prawn catch in 2005-06 was 5300 tonnes, higher than the 2004-05 catch but still significantly below the highest catch of nearly 9300 tonnes in 2000-01. Banana and tiger prawns account for 80 per cent of the catch.
- » In the 2006 season, 77 licensed vessels operated in the fishery, down from 89 in the 2005 season. The 2006 banana prawn season was 9 April–21 May and tiger prawn season 1 August–15 November.

net economic returns

northern prawn fishery, in 2006-07 dollars

including management costs



financial performance – per boat

- » Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, average seafood **receipts** per boat increased by 16 per cent to \$921 000, driven by an increase in landings and higher prices for tiger prawns in 2005-06.
- » Average total cash **costs** per boat increased by 11 per cent in 2005-06 to \$955 000. A 35 per cent increase in fuel costs was a major contributor to this overall increase.
- » In 2005-06, average cash **income** per boat (cash receipts less cash costs) was \$24 600, up from a negative income of -\$15 400 per boat in 2004-05.
- » The average **rate of return** to boat capital (excluding the value of quota and licences) was negative in both years, but improved from -5.2 per cent in 2004-05 to -1.5 per cent in 2005-06.

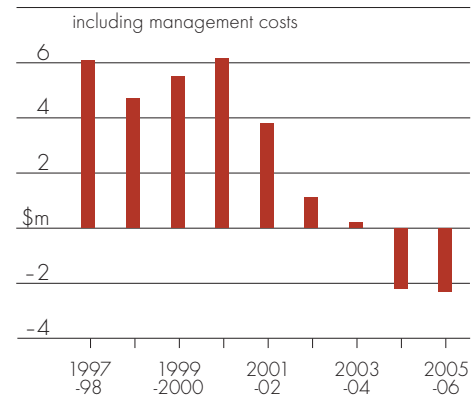
Torres Strait prawn fishery

economic performance – fishery as a whole

- » **Net economic returns** (including management costs) continued on a declining trend to become negative for the first time in 2004-05 – with a value of -\$2.2 million. Net economic returns then declined slightly further in 2005-06 to -\$2.3 million. These estimates are substantially lower than the average annual net economic return for the period 1997-98 and 2003-04 of \$4.0 million.
- » The real gross value of production of the fishery was \$13.6 million in 2005-06, down from \$16.8 million in 2004-05 and the record of \$35.8 million in 1998-99.
- » The 2005-06 catch included 567 tonnes of tiger prawns, 694 tonnes of blue endeavour prawns and 47 tonnes of red spot king prawns. Smaller quantities of Moreton Bay bugs, scallops and squid were also caught.
- » In the 2005-06 season, 54 vessels caught prawns in the fishery, down from 63 in 2004-05. The fishery operates from 1 March to 1 December and all trawling occurs at night.

net economic returns

Torres Strait prawn fishery, in 2006-07 dollars



Broadly, **net economic return** differs from accounting profit as it includes the opportunity cost of both capital and labour. It is the indicator referred to in the Australian Fisheries Management Authority's objectives in the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

financial performance – per boat

- » Average seafood **receipts** per boat fell by 3 per cent between 2004-05 and 2005-06 – from \$491 000 to \$474 000 per boat as both catches and prawn prices fell in 2005-06.
- » Average total cash **costs** per boat increased by 2 per cent between 2004-05 and 2005-06 – from \$506 000 to \$515 000. Fuel costs were the highest single expense in the fishery, accounting for 36 per cent of total cash costs in 2004-05 and 39 per cent in 2005-06.
- » Average cash **income** per boat (total cash receipts less total cash costs) fell from \$21 700 in 2004-05 to -\$1100 in 2005-06.
- » The average **rate of return** to boat capital (excluding the value of quota and licences) fell from 3.5 per cent in 2004-05 to -1.0 per cent in 2005-06.